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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 350. NOVEMBER, 1935.

PURPOSE. FORTHGOING. METHOD.

"My word shall accomplish that whereto it was sent."—ISA. LV. 11.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Annual Ulster Hall Service will be held on Sunday, November 17th, at 7 p.m. Friends who intend to be present will have to arrange to be in good time, as the Hall fills up rapidly. The preacher is the Rev. Dr. R. F. Rattray of Cambridge, whose visit on a previous occasion, when he delivered the Synod Lecture, will be remembered. He is Minister of the Memorial Church, Cambridge; formerly Principal, University College, Leicester, and is the author of No. 8 in the "Religion" series—"Fundamentals of Modern Religion." A very scholarly and thoughtful preacher, he should make an appeal to the intellectual section of the community.

* * *

It is expected that Mr. G. G. Armstrong, President of the General Assembly, London, will be present. He is the son of the late Rev. R. Armstrong for some time minister of Banbridge.

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Visitors to Ulster Hall on November 17th will find in the vestibule book-stall of the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association: free copies of the *Non-Subscribing Presbyterian* will be distributed for information of new-comers.

* * *

At the moment of going to press, we have not been notified as to the chairman of the Ulster Hall meeting, but we assume it will be the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Agnew.

* * *

Newry and Warrenpoint have evolved a number of activities, the central one of which is the Guild at Newry, and in connection with that a magazine named "The Sundial" has been produced, reference to which will be found elsewhere. The inadequacy of an hour on Sunday for the children is a matter universally recognised, and Friday evenings at the Manse are being devoted to the children. Within the Manse grounds also accommodation has been found for a Tennis Club.

* * *

Presbyterians in days gone by have been just as meticulous in points of ceremonial as Catholics have been. P. 220 "Story of the Scottish Church." The "Auld Lichts" became involved in a troublesome controversy over a matter of ritual. In the celebration of the Lord's Supper the words—"The Lord Jesus . . . . took bread," raised the question —Should the minister take and lift the bread, or merely touch it before giving thanks? Those who adopted the former alternative were called "Lifters," while the latter were called "Anti-Lifters."

* * *

Reference is made elsewhere to the great congregation which assembled in the Ulster Hall on October 6th, when the service was conducted by the Moderator, Right Rev. Dr. Agnew. We are informed that half-an-hour before the service began there was scarcely standing room, and over a thousand were turned away; that this is estimated to be no doubt the largest service held by any Liberal Christian Church in the world. Visitors came even from England, and orthodox ministers from over forty miles away. In the latter case that is a healthy sign and shows the leaven is working, and that is one aspect of our work not to be overlooked, the influence on the Christian Church as a whole. Round every congregation there is a considerable

"fringe" larger by far than the congregation, and on special occasions that asserts itself, for it is cheering to read everywhere of our overflowing congregations. There is abroad a tremendous interest in religion, "the harvest is plenteous but the labourers are few." In a review which is intended to appear in the present number, a young Indian teacher has quite recently addressed audiences in a football stadium numbering 20,000. A far larger audience even than that was addressed by the Moderator over "the wireless" the Sunday previous to the big Ulster Hall meeting.

"REV. R. LYTTLE SPEAKING!"

[We are giving a few extracts from "cuttings," containing reports of meetings addressed by the late Rev. R. Lyttle of Moneyrea.]

MARCH 10th, 1897—"A Tour round the Northern and Western Coasts of Ireland, on a Bicycle," given to the Belfast Branch of the Irish Women's Association, in the Rosemary Street Hall, Mrs. O'Malley, President of the Association, in the chair. A large attendance of members and their friends were present. In the course of his remarks Mr. Lyttle said, "I did not see one really drunk man in all the West of Ireland, although we promenaded the lowest parts of the towns in the evenings. Surely no man ever received more courtesy and kindness in the house and on the roads. It often happened that we met a horse that was inclined to shy at our bicycles, we invariably stopped. Whatever inconvenience the driver experienced he apologised to us for the bother 'the nervish baste' had caused us. 'It's too bad, gentlemen, a safe journey to ye's, and God bless you kindly.' We know what usually happens and is usually said in County Down under such circumstances. . . . . There is a ready eagerness to discuss public questions and a surprising knowledge of public affairs, but no man seems to inquire as to what may be your politics or your religion, but if you do tell him he has always more courtesy than to tell you that you are all wrong and a bit of a fool, and proceed to convert you. He will put it off with some pleasant joke. Everywhere the Protestants whom I met spoke well of their Celtic neighbours, who if treated decently, gave good treatment in return. No man is impertinent enough, as far as we could see, to ask another his business or object in riding through the country. There was a total absence of impertinent inquisitiveness. The scenery is grand. I came to this conclusion: that happiness and merriment would not return to the peasant hearthstones of the West—that progress and prosperity would not enter into the life of that region—until nearly a hundred years after the land has become the property of the people, and the peasant has begun to feel assured that where he tills and sows on his half barren acres he and his family shall eat, rest, and be satisfied. If you would learn to worship God more rapturously for the wonders of His creation, if you would learn to pity your countrymen in undeserved misery with a keener pity, if you would learn to love your native land with a warmer glow of romantic attachment—go to the West,

Where lake and plain smile fair and free,
'Mid rocks, their guardian chivalrie.

SUBSIDY FUND.

The Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following subscription :—

First Presbyterian Church, Belfast (per Mr. Wm. McRobert) ... £2 0 0

Contributions should be addressed to the Manager, Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

THE LATE DR. GRIERSON.

The following letter was received by the Clerk of Synod :—

Belfast, 19th July, 1935.

Dear Mr. Davies,

Thank you so much for your kind letter of sympathy and your kind words about my dear father.

His end was quite peaceful: we would not wish him back. The doctors said that only the stimulus of his work kept him going of late, and without his work he could not live. Thank God for such a life and death.

As the letters amount to nearly 200, my husband kindly lent me his private secretary; please excuse typing.

Again thanking you,

Very sincerely yours,

ULA B. KINAHAN.

December number published on the **Fourth** Saturday of November. Copy should be in before the **16th** at latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down

THE BIBLE.

This was learned, not at a Unitarian propaganda meeting, of which at that time and place no such thing had ever been heard; but, in a sermon considered by preacher and hearers, as within the bounds of orthodoxy.

There are two ideas of Inspiration. I. That every word in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, is God's own word. That God, as it were, had dictated to certain men every word, as a teacher might give out dictation at school; that the idea had been impressed on the mind of the writer, so that when the prophet spoke or wrote, it was God Himself that spoke through him, in the same way as though a speaking-trumpet were placed through a wall, and a man behind the wall spoke through the trumpet. You cannot see the man, but you can hear his voice. Or again, as a scholar learning to write has his hand taken by the teacher and guided to form the letters, so that it is not the boy who is writing, but the teacher.

II. The other idea is that these men who wrote the Bible, just wrote down as they themselves thought: Jeremiah wrote as Jeremiah thought; Isaiah wrote as Isaiah thought. "We cannot but speak forth that which we do know." In a condition, no doubt of high exaltation, believing that their message was that of God, they proclaimed. "Thus saith the Lord," they felt as though the breath of the Spirit had come upon them, that they were inspired, and that very inspiration was conveyed to those who read or heard the word spoken.

The message took on the colour of the mind through which it came just as the signal lamps on the railway, show red or green, according to the colour of the glass.

Thus you have a prophet of a strong fierce warrior type crying "spare not, slay every man, woman or child." "Blessed is he that shall take thy children and dash them against the stones." Fanatical zeal mistaken for a divine frenzy, occurring frequently in history; the very words used at the moment of massacre, by such a man as Cromwell, in Ireland. "Spare not, smite them hip and thigh." We find a great deal of that in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, there are letters, epistles upon which doctrinal systems have been built; but, the writers of those letters when they penned them had no idea that the significance would be given them, which afterwards was attached to them. A letter is written in the ordinary way in correspondence, with no other thought that when it has been delivered and read in due course, there will be the end of it.

God's revelation sometimes comes suddenly to a human soul, as in the case of an Atheist, who in the presence of magnificent natural beauty of romantic scenery, realised the presence of God; but, having previously changed over from rather a narrow orthodoxy to Atheism, his new religious experience reverted to the orthodoxy he had renounced, and that again became the expression of his religious faith. Had it been a wider faith, in which he had been brought up, a Liberal Christianity might have satisfied his spiritual needs.

God's inspiration does run through the Bible, but it comes through minds varying from the savage to the Christ, and because the Bible is the record of the growth of a people from a primitive condition with crude ideas, which involved even human sacrifice, of which the Bible has records right up to a form sufficiently perfect to be the habitation of the Son of God, it is a marvel of consistency, when taken as a whole, and read in the light of evolution. It begins with "Darkness was upon the face of the deep," and closes with "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen"

ULLIN.

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland and Unitarian and Free Christian Laymen's League.

ANNUAL UNITED SERVICE

WILL BE HELD IN

ULSTER HALL, BELFAST,

On SUNDAY, 17th November, at 7 o'clock.

PREACHER:

REV. DR R. F. RATTRAY

OF CAMBRIDGE.

The President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches,

GEORGE G. ARMSTRONG, ESQ., OF LONDON

will be present and assist in Service.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

Doors open at 6-30.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO ALL.

REVIEWS.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following: *Records of a Family, 1800-1933* —McLachlan. *Helen Brooke Herford and the Women's League*, by Mrs. Bernard Allen. Reviews will appear at the earliest opportunity.

God is My Adventure, by Rom Landau—Ivor Nicholson & Watson, 44 Essex St., W.C.2. 10/6.

This book gives biographical sketches of present-day famous men who have influenced millions of people, yet the majority know little about them personally. The book is exceedingly well got up, the type is very clear and photographs, which are like the "close-ups" in the "pictures," each occupies a full page, bringing the celebrities in turn face to face with the reader in an eerie sort of way. They are the Author, Count Keyserling, Stefan George, Rudolf Steiner, Krishnamurti, Shri Meher Baba, Principal Jeffreys, Frank Buchman, P. D. Ouspensky, Gurdjieft. With reference to five of these "teachers," much insight is given into the meaning of movements both in Germany and Russia. One would scarcely expect to find that the British Boy Scout movement was one of the roots of the present Nazi movement in Germany; but that is revealed in the section on Count Keyserling. Rudolf Steiner and Krishnamurti we have contacted personally. The author in his "adventure" retired for a certain time into an oasis in Northern Africa, a few years later he went round the world in a modern man-of-war. The present book gives the outcome of fifteen years of life, in which most of these men became known to him personally. Krishnamurti by his sincerity and "the beauty of his personality" is the one who has influenced him most, and brought to him at time of catastrophe strength and sustaining power when faced with the heaviest blow he had ever yet suffered. "My effort might have been less successful had I not just been staying with Krishnamurti, and had my spiritual determination not been strengthened through his spiritual influence." This is a powerful testimony; at the same time, we do not agree with his estimate of some of the circumstances connected with this particular biographical sketch, though they are recorded with sympathy and courtesy.

"There must be people in your life who mean nothing to you or whom you even dislike?"

Krishnamuri smiled: "There aren't any people I dislike. Don't you see that it is not I who directs my love towards one person, strengthening it here, weakening it there? Love is simply there like the colour of my skin, the sound of my voice, no matter what I do. . . . . And I feel this unity not only with human beings, I feel it with trees, with the sea, with the whole world round me. Physical differentiations no longer exist. I am not speaking of the mental images of a poet; I am speaking of reality." The author adds a footnote to one of the pages stating that Krishnamurti at Rio de Janeiro, in summer of 1935, addressed meetings in a football stadium each numbering 20,000 people.

Rom Landau closes with these words: "It is a life in which the God within us emerges from the shadows of our ignorance, and steps forth to become the living power that commands all our life. It is the God that makes of every day a Sunday. It is the only living God."

EXCOMMUNICATED.

Some boys have been expelled from a branch of the Boys' Brigade in Belfast for having gone to services at York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, of which the Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew is minister. The Methodist Church has, no doubt, a perfect right to select boys of their own outlook. York Street Congregation applied to the Boys' Brigade Headquarters to form a company of their own. This was refused point blank on the ground that a decision to that effect was made in England some years ago. Dr. Agnew went round immediately to inform them that no such permission had ever been sought by any of our congregations, so that it could never have been refused. Dr. Agnew was told point blank that we were not accepted as Christians, and was treated with scant courtesy. Dr. Agnew is not taking it lying down, as may easily be imagined. But evidently the officials responsible for this refusal are ignorant of the personell of our congregations, and refuses to regard the decision to exclude our boys from the Boys' Brigade as final, and has written to English Headquarters asking on what grounds they base their decision, enclosing a copy of the Constitution of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church.

REPORTS.

Newry.

Volume I. No. 2. of "The Sundial" Oct. 1935, price 3d, Published by First Presbyterian The (Unitarian) Guild, Newry.

Editorial quotes a saying—"Unless a tree has borne blossoms in Spring you will look in vain for fruit on it in Autumn." No. 1 appeared in May, No. 2 in October. Resolved:—"To give the church a chance this year." Object (a) of the Guild, which is inclusive of (b) (c) (d) is "To strengthen the Religious Life and the Spirit of Service of the Church." The sections of the magazine are (1) Editorial, (2) Reports, (a) The Tennis Club, (b) The Cycling Club, (3) Notes and News, (4) The Minister's Corner, (5) Women's Page, (6) S.P.G.R.—Society for Prevention of Garden Raiding. "The Sundial" is bound in a strong sky blue cover 11" x 8½", bearing in dotted lines what first appears to be a cross, but proves to be a sundial. (We have some remembrance of "a grandfather's clock" in Newry Meeting House, Sunday School). A complaint among American churches, with which Rev. J. McCleery has made considerable contact, is that the church is too often swamped by its institutions; but the purpose of the Guild is evidently to keep the church itself to the fore, and make institutions subsidiary. Whether Unitarian, Free Christian, or any or no denomination, "the citizens of Newry are welcome," for "the Church in Needham Place has no creed or dogma whatsoever"; which rather reminds us of a Lancashireman, whose family, when he had died, were considering who should bury him. Someone remarked, "Ah, weel! Joe believed nowt, Unitarians believe now't. Let'sax t' Unitarian!"—[ED.]

All Souls, Belfast.

The Badminton Club commenced its winter activities with a Whist Drive on Friday, October 4th. The work meetings in connection with the Women's League have been held each Monday during October in Rosemary Hall, in preparation for the Sale of Work on Friday, 15th November.

Ballyhemlin.

One of the best harvest-thanksgivings for many years, was the verdict of several who were present. The Meeting House was filled to its utmost capacity. An augmented choir led the singing, which was excellently rendered, Miss McMaster, of Ballyhalbert presiding at the organ. A great feature of the service was two quartettes by the Belgravia Quartette Singers:—"Come unto Me," and "Nearer my God to Thee." Rev. J. Barron preached from the text: "Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness." The decorations were simple and in good taste, a miniature wheat stack had a place of honour. Wheat, barley, oats, fruit and vegetables as "tokens of life giving gifts." The collection amounted to about Nine Pounds.

Killinchy.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, October 6th, when the local minister, Rev. D. J. Williams preached at noon and also in the evening at 7 o'clock, when unusually large congregations assembled at both services The audiences were composed of our own members and a large number of neighbours and friends from other denominations. We had the advantage of securing the services of the Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A., of Rademon to preach on Monday night, October 7th, at 7-30. The members welcomed him and thanked him for his discourse which brought a fitting series of services to a close. Special Harvest Hymns were sung throughout and an Anthem: "He Watereth the Hills" was rendered by an augmented choir, our organist, M. Jennie Russell, presiding at the organ. The Church was beautifully decorated and was greatly admired by large audiences.

Belfast York Street.

The usual Anniversary Service in the Ulster Hall has overshadowed all other activities in York Street during the past month though these have gone on without interruption.

This is the ninth service to be held in the Ulster Hall and it is a matter of gratification to us that each successive service has been more successful than the one before. Unfortunately we can only measure this by the numbers which are turned away. On this occasion the Ulster Hall was literally packed at six-thirty when to an onlooker the larger numbers seemed only to be arriving. Some hundreds of these contented themselves with standing but the majority turned regretfully home. However we hope that many will be the more inclined to visit York Street itself during the winter when we are in hopes of an overflow congregation for which provision has already been made. Meanwhile a suggestion that next year two services be held in the Hall is being seriously considered. Expenses will be only slightly greater and country

friends who are prevented by their own Harvests from being with us will have another opportunity the following week. The question is one for the ladies of York Street who have the main work on these occasions . . that of catering for our hundreds of visitors in the limited space we have. We have no doubt however that they will respond as usual. We also feel that if this can be done we can count on the assistance of friends from the country who have not yet troubled to come to this service since the success of such an undertaking could not but encourage our whole Denomination and cause that public interest in which at times we lament the lack of.

Of the service itself nothing need be said. Belfast Military Band as usual led the praise and Miss Geraldine Costigan was the soloist as in former years. Otherwise the service was the same as is held in York Street week after week. His friends were delighted to see that Dr. Agnew in spite of the fact that he is still an invalid and has had a strenuous time of late appeared to be in excellent form and was able to accomplish the physical feat of holding the vast audience, at least a quarter of which was behind him and many of whom had been standing for over an hour, for his usual forty minutes. This notwithstanding that several people were overcome by the heat. The car park was under the capable management of the R.A,C.

York Street itself had been open all day and it was long after midnight when the last of our workers were able to go home. York Street people consider the service itself on Anniversary Day a comparatively simple matter. It is the organisation for weeks before which makes this so. Five hundred posters were put up in Belfast and over twenty thousand handbills were printed on our own machine and distributed previous to the service and indeed it is seldom that so many of our people have worked so well.

On Wednesday night the usual Anniversary Social was held. It was a happy event attended simply by our own people. Captain Davison and Mrs. Senior who had come from England to be with us spoke of the great success of the Service and complimented Dr Agnew while he in turn confessed that he had done little but preach an old sermon and reminded the members that the first Service had been the suggestion of Mr. Joseph Mitchell who alone had considered that such an undertaking was possible to a congregation which at that time was only half its present size.

Our swimming club has begun its winter session and we shall be happy to welcome any members of our sister Churches who care to spend Tuesday night with us. The Guild on Saturday has been running for some time and the Sunday Fellowship will have commenced with a lantern lecture by the time this appears in print. The Dramatic Society is working quietly on Thursday nights and we are in hopes that a Company of the Boys Brigade will be formed in a few weeks time. This will meet on Friday nights so that once more our building will be in full use every night in the week.

On September 29th the wireless service was taken in the Church. The service was timed and the sermon came in exactly as though the preacher were present. The collection was then taken and meanwhile Dr. Agnew had returned from the studio and entered the pulpit to conclude the Church Service. It was a very fine piece of organisation on which Mr. Woolley, Mr. Kirkham and Mr. Christie were deservedly complimented. A social was held by the Choir and Band for Mr. Woolley on Wednesday 10th on the occasion of his wedding. Space prohibits the recording of various other events. We are now settling down to complete a year in which we hope to meet the entire expenses of the Church without any Sale of Work or other effort whatever but depending on the voluntary contributions of our members and friends alone in stipend and collection. This notwithstanding the limitation of our work due in some measure to our Minister's state of health and some unforseen repairs which have had to be done. This is an ideal to which we have been working for the past ten years. We would remind our country friends that we shall always be glad to see them through the winter when they have no services of their own. A car park is arranged for them and refreshments are always provided by our ladies and their presence will be a real help to us and we trust a pleasure to them.

Mountpottinger.

The Women's League opened their Twelfth Session, on Monday, 7th October, with a Devotional Service conducted by Mrs. George Gardiner, B.A., of Holywood, the subject of her discourse was "The revelation of God in everything." Mrs. Gardiner's thoughts on her subject were happily expressed, and the members were grateful to her for kindly coming so far to help and encourage us on our opening night. There was a good attendance of members. After a cup of tea, and conversation, the business meeting was

proceeded with, at which Reports of the Year's work and Financial Statement were presented, and Officers and Committee elected for the new session. In consequence of the departure to England, of our late highly esteemed president, Mrs. J. H. Ewbank, to whom we are so much indebted for all she has done for our League, it was necessary to appoint a new president. Mrs. John Russell has kindly accepted the invitation, and we are confident that she will continue her useful efforts on behalf of our Branch. Miss McCalmont kindly assisted with the musical part of the Service. K. F.

Cairncastle.

Successful Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held in the Old Meeting-house, Cairncastle. The minister of the congregation, Rev. T. Munn, conducted the service on Sunday, when there was a large congregation. On Monday evening the Rev. Dr. Agnew, Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, was the special preacher. Again there was a crowded congregation. Dr. Agnew, both here in the North of Ireland and in the United States of America, has made a name for himself as a preacher, and quite recently has been on the wireless: consequently many friends from Larne and district listened with evident appreciation to a thoughtful and eloquent sermon.

The old meeting-house was tastefully decorated by the ladies of the congregation. The anthem, "Put ye in the sickle" was well rendered by the choir, and the congregational singing of well-known harvest hymns was something to be remembered. Gifts of flowers, fruit and produce were received from Sir Thomas Dixon, Bart.; Mr. Wm. Chaine, D.L., and others. Miss N. H. Crawford presided at the organ.

Downpatrick.

Full attendance marked the usual Harvest Thanksgiving Services in Downpatrick First Presbyterian Non-Subscribing Church on Sunday, 13th October. This was in some degree a tribute to the return visit of a former esteemed pastor, Rev. John Begg, now of Larne. The church was suitably adorned with the fruits of field and orchard, and made a very tangible appeal, reflecting the glory of a bounteous harvest. The choir was under the capable leadership of Miss M. Dickson.

Preaching in the morning from Isaiah xxviii, 27-29, Mr. Begg, in the course of an exposition of the prophet's message, said that calamities might lead to construction; disasters, to development; punishments might be the pruning necessary to the production of fruit. All revealed the providential purpose of an all powerful God. The field was the world; the good seed were the children of the kingdom. What would or could life be if it were all brightness and sunshine? God's providence was seen in alternating day and night, sun and shower, heat and cold. His purpose was revealed in ever recurring spring, summer, autumn, winter; in sowing and reaping, in seedtime and harvest, the joy of harvest home.

In the evening Mr. Begg based his address on Exodus xxiii., 15-16. The special law of sowing and reaping, he said, was that the produce of the harvest would be the same in kind as the seed sown. This law was observable in human affairs. There was nothing which preserved and strengthened a nation in virtue and righteousness so much as a knowledge of the word or law of God. To this end, he emphasised the importance of regular attendance at church. There was a power in public worship, in the utterance of common sorrows, needs and hopes, in the prayer that was breathed, and the praise that was sung in concert—a power which they strangely missed who thought that worship was a wornout superstition and that only in the clear light of reason could men walk and be blest.

Raloo.

Harvest Thanksgiving is announced for October 27th. Preachers, morning: The minister—Rev. J. McCleery, evening: Rev. Thomas Munn, Cairncastle. We hope friends within reach will encourage this very loyal outpost, in that romantic country.

Holywood Branch Women's League.

This branch opened the new session with a talk on "Sex Equality" by Miss Greenfield. This was much appreciated and a lively discussion followed. The meeting closed with the usual social cup of tea.

First Church, Belfast.

Harvest Thanksgiving and Sunday School Anniversary Services were held in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on Sunday, 13th October. In the morning and evening the preacher was the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., while at the United Scholars' Service in the afternoon the address was given by the Rev. Wm. Eakin, who outlined the advantages of

youth organisations of a proper kind as character builders.

In his evening address the preacher drew attention to the colossal wastage which occurred in many walks of life. He instanced gambling, smoking and intemperance as typical examples, which could only be obviated by personal effort and initiative. The awful waste of material resources due to modern warfare was also dwelt upon. It was not consistent to give thanks for the products of earth, and then to ignore their proper utilization.

The musical part of these services was under the direction of Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M. In the morning the choir sang "The Heavens are telling" by Haydn, the preceding recitative "In Splendour Bright" being artistically rendered by Mr. David Houston, who is now well in the front rank of local tenors. Miss L. V. Gordon, L.R.A.M., sang "Thanksgiving," a solo which gave her interpretative powers full scope for expression.

In the evening a large congregation assembled to hear selections from Sterndale Bennett's Cantata "The Woman of Samaria." The greater part of this work was given, and we wonder why! The First Presbyterian Congregation has always been a pioneer of good sacred music in this city, and Sterndale Bennett isa very poor imitator of Mendelssohn. Haydn's "Creation" would have been much more appropriate for a Harvest Festival, and certainly would have been more tuneful. The difficult chromatic passages were not always in tune, and some of the principals were not free from blame in this respect—especially in the recitatives. The solos were on the whole quite good, the unaccompanied rendering of the quartett "God is a Spirit" being exceptionally so. That beautiful six-part chorus "Therefore they shall come and sing" showed signs of insufficient rehearsal, and in consequence its tranquility was somewhat marred.

The soloists were: Miss May Coburn, soprano; Miss L. V. Gordon, L.R.A.M., contralto; Mr. D. Houston, tenor; and Mr. J. A. Laird, baritone. Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., at the organ was brilliant throughout, and his accompaniments to the hymns were very effective.—(Skegoniell)

Glenarm.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on September 29th and 30th. The Church was most tastefully decorated and our grateful thanks go to Miss Galbraith, The Glore, and her band of workers for their willing labour. Also our thanks are due to members of the congregation and friends for their generous gift of flowers, fruit and vegetables. There were large congregations both days. The preacher on the Sunday was the minister (Rev. P. M. Lee) and on the Monday Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A. D.D., Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. His visit was greatly appreciated and his sermon made a great appeal to the large congregation. A special word of praise is due to Miss Lily Robinson, A.L.C.M., and her choir for the excellent rendering of the musical part of the services, particulary of the Anthem "The Lord is loving." At the close of the Monday evening service, tea was served in the Session Room by the members of the Ladies Guild and a pleasent social hour was passed.

Greyabbey.

The Harvest Thanksgiving service in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Greyabbey, was held on Sunday evening, 13th October. The service was conducted by the Rev. Edgar Lockett, of Holywood, who preached to an overflowing congregation. Mr. W. J. Harvey, Holywood, presided at the organ. The choir and other friends from the church at Holywood joined the local choir, and special music was rendered which included the anthem "O Lord, how manifold are Thy works," "Hail, Harvest Land" and "Abide with me." The services of thanksgiving were continued on Monday before a large congregation, and an address was given by the Rev. W. H. Townley Tilson, M.A., minister of the church.

Domestic Mission.

Our mission during the winter season might appropriately be described as "The ever-open door," for every evening the hall is in use, one or more of the various groups being engaged in Educational, Social or Inspirational work. Everyone may find an opportunity for entertainment and fellowship in one or other of the week-night activities which are regularly carried on.

The Sunday School Teachers and pupils met together on Saturday afternoon, 12th, when an enjoyable programme of group games followed by tea provided a very happy rally for the commencement of the winter session.

The Debating Society has made a good beginning with Mr. Shortt as opening speaker taking as the title of his paper "Myself and the Universe." The ensuing discussion was both thoughtful and interesting.

Many new members have been added to the ranks of the Social Club, so that all sections have ambitious plans for ensuing months. The Table Tennis and games department having been supplied with additional equiqment is now in a position to give much better scope for entertainment.

The Dramatic Society will present an original play entitled, "Greater Love" by Mr. F. M. Pett, Belfast, on Thursday, 14th November, in Central Hall, Rosemary Street.

To keep our shelves supplied with Reading material we would greatly appreciate magazines and books. With the approach of winter, clothing, boots and shoes would also be most acceptable. W.E.

Moneyrea.

On the occasion of the Harvest Thanksgiving Services on October 6th and 7th, the meeting house was beautifully decorated with fruit, grain and vegetables as well as with decorated implements and symbols of plenty, all of which were contributed by generous members. The ladies and gentlemen responsible for the work, about 40 in number, were afterwards entertained to tea in the Old Schoolroom by Mrs. Hugh Frame, to whom sincere thanks are due for her kindness in this matter year by year.

The Sunday services were conducted by the *pastor loci*. On the following Monday evening the preacher was the Rev. Percival Lee, of Glenarm, whose sermon was very appropriate and highly appreciated by all present. The services were very well attended, in spite of doubtful weather. The choir sang two anthems entitled "Praise the Lord" and "And God said," the soloists being Messrs Samuel Millen, Samuel Girvan, and George Doyle. The congregational singing was hearty and inspiring, which goes to prove that the old well known harvest hymns have not diminished in popularity. Mrs. M'Cartney presided at the organ.

Ballycarry Harvest Services.

The morning preacher was the Rev. J. Begg of Larne, whose impressive address was listened to with much acceptance. At the evening service the Rev. Edgar Lockett of Holywood, preached to a crowded congregation which listened to his powerful discourse with great appreciation. The choir sang special anthems, The Harvest Anthem 'Great is our God," was rendered with much feeling. The organist, Mr. W. P. Campbell of Whitehead, under whose tuition the choir had practised, ably presided at the organ.

Domestic Mission Harvest Services.

The Annual Harvest Services on Sunday, 20th October, were favoured with bright sunshine after the storm of the previous day.

Many friends sent donations of flowers, fruit and vegetables which in the hands of a group of willing helpers transformed the church into a shrine of nature where beauty in varied form was exhibited.

The church was filled to capacity at afternoon and evening services in which visitors joined.

The Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A. conducted the afternoon service.

The praise which consisted of special Harvest numbers, including anthems, quartettes and solos, was arranged and rendered most effectively by our choir under the leadership of Mr. Sherlock. Miss Gray and Mr. Strange as visiting soloists were greatly appreciated.

To the many friends who by their gifts or in other ways helped to make the day so successful we tender our sincere thanks. W.E.

Clough.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services have been particularly bright and encouraging. The special music was good, the sermons interesting, and the congregations larger than usual. The church lends itself to a simple but very beautiful scheme of decoration with fruits, vegetables and flowers, and it was greatly admired by the visitors. The special thanks of the committee are due to the small band of workers who gave time and skill to their work—Miss Mollie Hay, Miss Vera Nelson, Miss Sadie Donnan and Mrs. Shaw Brown and Messrs Jack Hay and James Fraser. We were greatly favoured this year by the visit of singers from Belfast, under the direction of Mr. W. McClelland, director Messrs Hart & Churchill. The programme was as follows—morning, "The Lord is my Shepherd" Mrs. McClelland, (contralto). "My Task" Master Gerald McCullough (boy soloist), "The King of Love my Shepherd" Mr. James Laird (baritone). Evening—"Where'er you walk" Master Gerald McCullough; "The Lord is my Light," Mr. James Laird; "The Harvester's Night Song" Mrs. McClelland. Special acknowledgement should be made for the courtesy of the minister, organist and music committee of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, in releasing Mr. Laird from the choir for the day. The minister (Rev. James Shaw Brown) was preacher on Sunday morning and evening. On Monday evening the special preacher was

the Rev. J. McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., Newry, and the vocalist, Miss Joan Porter. The services of both visitors were highly appreciated.

Banbridge.

Once again the beautiful church was tastefully decorated with flowers and produce of field and garden for the annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service. A special feature was the work of many very young hands who not only gathered berries and autumnal leaves, but busily engaged themselves in arranging these skilfully around the galleries. The choir was augmented by the usual friends from the local churches, and Mrs. Thompson both trained this choir and officiated at the organ and under her care the praise portion of the services was most efficient. Two anthems were rendered, "Angel voices ever singing," and "Sing forth His praise," with solos admirably taken by Mrs. Helen Stevenson (our organist) and Mr. Hugh Chambers. Mr. Chambers also gave an inspiring rendition of the solo, "Jesus, lover of my soul." The sermons were preached by our own minister, of which prominent notice was given in the local press, which appreciated the reference to the national crisis. A good collection resulted, to be devoted to the local District and the Royal Victoria Hospitals.

"Everyone should make at least one person happy during the week,' said the Sunday school teacher. 'Have you done so, Tom Smith ?'

" 'Yes,' replied Tom, 'I went to see my aunt on Thursday, and she was happy when I went home.' "—The Schoolmaster.

* * *

"Boss : 'You are twenty minutes late again. Don't you know what time we start work at this factory ?'

"New Employee : 'No, Sir, they're always at it when I get here.' "—Boys' Life.

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OBITUARY.

Miss McMeekin, Ballycarry.

At the morning service held on October 13th in the Old Presbyterian Church, Ballycarry, the minister, Rev. W. G. Marsden, previous to delivering his discourse said to the congregation assembled—"Before we proceed any further with our service this morning, I must speak a word of appreciation of our fellow-member, Miss McMeekin, whose mortal remains were laid to rest in Ballycarry Graveyard yesterday.

From her childhood she had been associated most intimately with our church, without any break during a long life-time of 86 years. For over 70 years she taught in our Sunday School, her large class of little boys, now grown into men, but many of whom remember her with affection and who realize the value of her good work during their early boyhood days.

It is impossible to speak in detail of all her work on behalf of this Church from whose services she was rarely ever absent. On every occasion during my ministry when any enterprise was being undertaken to help on the work of the church, she entered into it heart and soul and her efforts were always wonderfully successful.

She was a very kind hearted woman, notwithstanding her somewhat brusque and outspoken manner of speech. Sympathetic too she was and always quick to render service to anyone she believed to be in need.

And now she has entered into her well earned rest.

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